

# The Chronicle



*The Newsletter of the History & Preservation Section of the NJLA*

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## 2023-2024 H&P Section Executive Board

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Vice President: Juber Ayala

Secretary: Jacquelyn Oshman

Past President: Beth Zak-Cohen

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If possible, please include images with captions/attribution.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John Beekman, Section President

It is an honor to return to the position of President after thirteen years. I look forward to a year of active service to the section, and I hope to do some small part in building this community that has been so important to me during my career as a librarian. Our Executive Board will meet in August to plan out our year. Please watch our email distribution list for notices of upcoming meetings.

While those of us “of a certain age” can readily recall several periods of change and challenge, our current moment seems particularly fraught. Changes in communication technologies that come at exponential rates are rewiring our collective experience of culture to an extent not seen since the advent of the printing press. A year of lockdown has led to many of us reconsidering our relationship to work and social life. As librarians concerned with history and preservation, we grapple both with our own experience of the moment and the uncertainties of how to capture and preserve the record of these changing times.

Job one in facing these challenges has to be building our community of practice, expanding our membership so that the generation of “digital natives” can both teach and learn from those of us who recall when a dial-up modem and an America Online disk were cutting edge technologies for personal computing. We need to actively invite in new professionals and those who have not been active to find a home here and make it their own.

A service our section can provide in facing a changing cultural landscape is identifying what skills need to be developed for librarianship in the mid-21<sup>st</sup> century. Mutual aid in professional development can take many forms, from casual skillshares to workshops to conference panels. We began outreach to identify needs with a survey at the conference. It is my hope we can continue to explore and identify needs, and work to meet them.

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On a more prosaic level, it is my hope that we can resume some in-person meetings throughout the year, where we can conduct our business in person and also tour a repository or get a firsthand look at some exciting project. Virtual meetings have their advantages, and will continue to be a component of how we carry out business. But there is something irreplaceable in having the opportunity to share an experience “in real life.” Stay tuned!

Elsewhere in this issue I have written at length about the NJLA Conference this past June, so I will close for now. Please enjoy the contributions of our colleagues, and I look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

John Beekman, Jersey City Public Library, H&P President

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD



**President**

**John Beekman, Jersey City Public Library**

John received his MLIS from Rutgers in 2006 and has since that time worked in the New Jersey Room at the Jersey City Free Public Library. In 2020, he became manager of the department. In the late 20th Century, he worked for many years caring for rental sheet music and scripts at the Tam-Witmark Music Library. He has been an active member of the History & Preservation Section of NJLA and MARAC, and serves as co-editor of the H-New Jersey discussion forum on H-Net. John previously served as section President in 2009-10, and has moderated or appeared on several H&P panels at NJLA conferences, including the most recent one in June 2023.



**Vice President**

**Juber Ayala, Archivist, Hispanic Reference and Information Center, Newark Public Library**

Juber is the Archivist at the New Jersey Hispanic Research & Information Center (NJHRIC) at The Newark Public Library. Starting in the archival field as an undergraduate intern, he quickly found a career path to apply his History and Political Science studies. He learned the archival basics of processing and arranging collections, as well as creating finding aids. Before starting his graduate studies, he also worked at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies as an archival assistant. He currently holds a Master of Information with a concentration in Archives and Preservation from Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

Juber says, "After being a general member and member at large, I've really enjoyed getting to know other librarians and archivists throughout NJ. I look forward to becoming more involved with the H&P section and challenging myself to grow in the profession."



**Secretary**

**Jacquelyn Oshman, New Brunswick Public Library**

Jacquelyn Oshman has been the Local History and Genealogy Librarian at New Brunswick Public Library since 2006 and the Head of Circulation since 2020. In addition to Reference and Interlibrary Loan services, Ms. Oshman has also spearheaded local history projects such as transcribing a vital statistics collection into an online database, inventorying and being point person on Willow Grove Cemetery information, and giving Genealogy presentations at libraries and historical societies. She is the Web Archivist for NBFPL and digitizes Archival collections. She is a member of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey and the New Jersey Library Association.



**Member-at-Large**

**Vanessa Castaldo, Archivist, Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library**

Vanessa says, "I would love to be an H&P Member at Large, so I can begin to forge connections with other librarians and archivists that are passionate about history and preservation. This would be a way to not only develop my own skillset as an archivist and librarian, but would be a space to explore new ways of showcasing and sharing our collections."



**Member-at-Large**

**Sarah Hull, Head, Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections Department Plainfield Public Library**

Sarah says, "I've been working as a professional librarian and archivist for nearly twenty-five years, and am an NJLA Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award recipient (2017), a former H&P Section President (2019), and a current member of the NJLA Archives & History Committee. I hope to bring my experience and enthusiasm as an archivist, a public library employee, and an H&P member to the section and board. I look forward to contributing to the positive direction of the section and assisting with our current and future projects."



**Member-at-Large**  
**Jessica Myers, Volunteer, Bloomfield Historical Society**

Jessica Myers (SCILS Rutgers University MLS 2000) was the Head of the Plainfield Local History Department at the Plainfield Public Library from 2001 to 2012. After retirement, she leads The Plainfield Senior Citizen Center Memoir Writing Group and has volunteered for the Historical Society of Bloomfield. Priorities are to build participation by holding subject area classes to include restoration of damaged materials, fundraising, or building new collections.



**Member-at-Large**  
**Gary Saretzky, President, Princeton Preservation Group**

Gary D. Saretzky worked as an archivist at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (1968-1969), Educational Testing Service (1969-1993), and the Monmouth County Archives (1994-2019). Gary taught history of photography at Mercer County Community College (1977-2012) and coordinated the Public History Internship Program for the Rutgers University History Department (1994-2016). He has served as a consultant to more than 60 different archives in New Jersey, primarily through CAPES, the consulting service of the New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC/NJ). He has given more than 250 lectures around the state on 19th century New Jersey photographers, preserving family photographs, and other topics. Gary has been President of the Princeton Preservation Group since 2005 and is a past Chair of the Business Archives Section of the Society of American Archivists (1978-1979), the MARAC/NJ Caucus (1998-2002), the Preservation Committee of the New Jersey Region V Library Cooperative (1988-1990), and the Preservation Section of the New Jersey Library Association (1986-1987).



**Past President: Beth Zak-Cohen, Newark Public Library**

Beth Zak-Cohen has been a librarian at the Charles F. Cummings Information Center at Newark Public Library since 2015. She serves as a reference librarian, processes archives, and manages the Center's digital archives. A Newark native and a graduate of Princeton and Rutgers SCI, Beth has assisted on many historical publications and exhibits, written for Garden State Legacy, and co-curated the Library's current exhibition on the Passaic River. Beth was an NJLA Emerging Leader in the 2018 - 2019 year. She served as H&P President from 2021-2023.

## **HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SECTION 2023 NJLA CONFERENCE WRAP-UP**

Submitted By John Beekman, Section President

The History and Preservation Section presented a wide range of programs across both days of the 2023 NJLA Conference in Atlantic City. By my rough count and calculations, we had an average attendance of 30 people each at our seven programs, plus 24 attendees at our business meeting and lots of folks dropping in to relax and get creative at the Zine Zone. As my primary responsibility as section Vice President was shepherding programs through the process from submission to presentation, I am grateful to our section members who suggested a wide range of practical programs, from collection building, organization and maintenance, to promoting use of and enhancing digital access.

We opened the conference program slots by reviewing the institutional archives of the Association, highlighting work being done to organize and preserve records held by NJLA, and a look at some items held by member libraries that enhance that record. The next session brought representatives of five local history collections in urban libraries to discuss the types of holdings they have for genealogical research and some programs to enhance and promote access.

At our traditional conference business meeting, we commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our section – established by the merging of the History & Bibliography Section with the Preservation Section, as well as the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Susan Swartzburg Award. Long-serving member Fred Pachman delivered some remarks on those histories.

Our final program on day one of the conference was a well-attended session on starting an oral history project, presenting the groundbreaking work in oral history that makes up the Latino Life Stories project. Incoming section Vice-President Juber Ayala and NJ Hispanic Research and Information Center Director Yessenia Lopez discussed the early challenges of creating an oral history collection in the face of indifference from the scholarly community, as well as their own efforts creating enhanced digital accessibility to the interviews.

Thursday evening brought the annual awards ceremony, where the Section awarded the Susan G. Swartzburg Award to Lois Densky-Wolff. As ever, the range of awards presented many moving examples of the vitality of the work done by the NJ library community.

Friday morning opened with the smell of smoke wafting through the conference center, as wildfires in the Pine Barrens raged at record levels. Early morning closure of the Parkway prevented one of our speakers from making the first session of the day and may have impacted attendance at the session as well. Fortunately, the director of the Scarlet and Black Research Center, Jesse Bayker, was there to present an overview of the developing New Jersey Slavery Records project which provides rich metadata and contextualization of disparate documentary records of enslavement in New Jersey.

We closed out the morning with a session highlighting the now-active NJ/DE Hub of the Digital Public Library of America. Hub Project Manager Lynn Hoffman and Metadata Specialist Michael L. Stewart discussed the background and structure of the project which collects digitized collections from local institutions into a centralized search location. Katrina Zwaaf from Somerset County Library System and I discussed our experiences as library participants in the project. All you have to do is say yes!

The final afternoon of the conference included two sessions of advice on starting or enhancing a local history or other archival collection. The first session offered experience “from the trenches” in arranging, describing, and preserving historical materials, as well as an overview of the CAPES consulting program – which included some eye-opening images of problem conditions found in various repositories. The final session provided some practical tips for preservation of photographs and other materials from our resident experts, Tim Corlis and Gary Saretzky.

As we always try to do, our section presented a wide range of programs allowing for the sharing of expertise and raising awareness of the work we do. Thanks and kudos to all of our colleagues who proposed and presented programs. Just as important, the conference provided an opportunity for us to come together and share joys, jokes and war stories. The sense of community provided by our section and the Association as a whole is invaluable as we continue in our work of service through ever more “interesting times.”

With the 2023 Conference behind us, it is never too early to start thinking about what sessions our section would like to see at Conference 2024! I know that we can count on our section members to support our new Section Vice-President Juber Ayala in his role as conference submission coordinator. The call for session ideas will be going out in the fall, so there’s plenty of time to reflect on what we saw this year and what might be interesting and informative next year.

See you then!

## MINING THE ARCHIVES: PRESERVING NJLA'S HISTORY

Submitted By Frederic Pachman, Chair, Archives & History Committee



In photo: (left to right) Fred Pachman, Laura Poll, Beth Zak-Cohen, Gary Saretzky  
Photo Credit: Fred Pachman

The very first program offered by the re-established NJLA Archives & History Committee was a joint session with our colleagues of the History & Preservation Section on Thursday morning. As Chair of the Archives & History Committee, I started the program with a brief review of NJLA history, showed some artifacts from the 1990 Centennial, discussed the storage situation of the NJLA Archives, and then thanked members of the committee who were in attendance.





Mining the Archives, Laura Poll presenting  
Photo Credit: Fred Pachman

Laura Poll of the Trentoniana Collection at the Trenton Public Library led off with the formation of NJLA in December 1890 at the Union Library in Trenton. A series of TPL directors served as presidents of our Association and in other official capacities. Bulletins, newsletters and committee reports were stored in various parts of the collection and she is continuing to search for additional historical treasures.



Mining the Archives, Beth Zak-Cohen presenting  
Photo Credit: Fred Pachman

Similarly, Beth Zak-Cohen of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center at the Newark Public Library has found conference programs, handbooks, directories and lots of newsletters. File folders of documents from NJLA Sections and Committees were discovered throughout the collection, and she closed with a photographic roster of library directors who served as presidents of NJLA.

Gary Saretzky closed our program with a review of the Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Survey report on the NJLA Archives he completed in October 2022. CAPES is managed by the New Jersey Caucus of the MidAtlantic Regional Archives Conference with funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission, and offers an archival consultation to organizations with collections of New Jersey history-related materials. When the NJLA office moved to Bordentown, ten filing cabinets of materials were moved to the New Jersey State Library – Talking Book and Braille Center. He talked about some possible recommendations for Groups and Series to organize the Archives and showed us some of the photographs, documents, correspondence and publications stored in the file drawers.

This collaboration between the Archives & History Committee and History & Preservation Section was the formula for a great program. Now we'll have to start working on a joint program for the 2024 Conference.

# **MORE THAN JUST JIMMY HOFFA: LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY IN NJ URBAN LIBRARIES**

Submitted By Sarah Hull, Plainfield Public Library and  
Jacqueline Silver-Morillo, Atlantic City Free Public Library

"The panel discussed the myriad of ways Local History departments are an essential component in Urban Libraries and work to expand the reach of the Library beyond current residents while still building a sense of community."

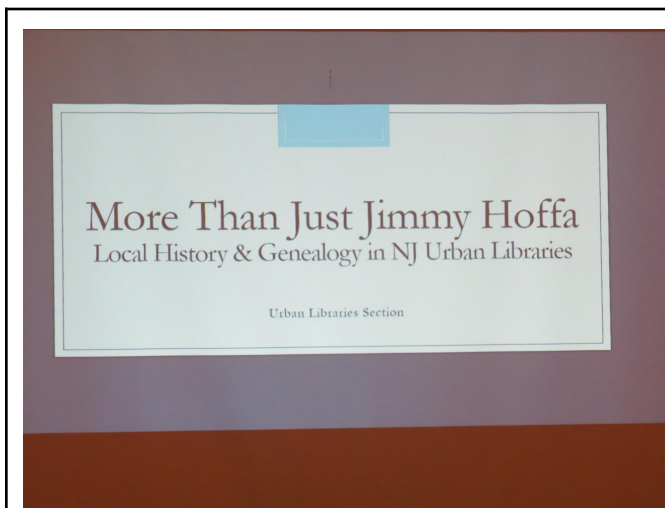
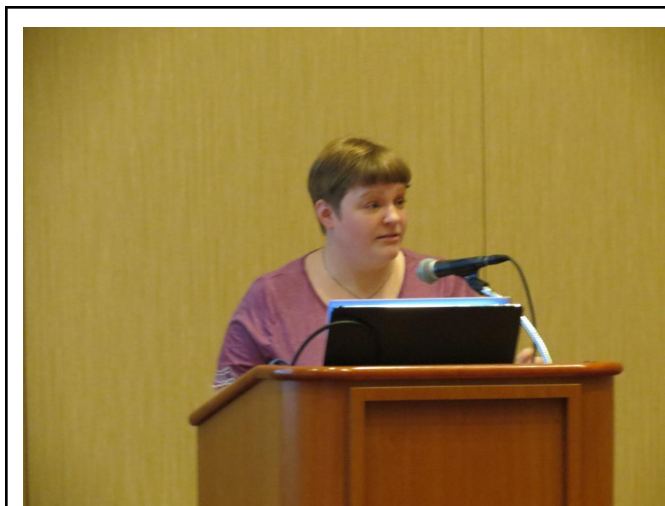


Photo Credit: Fred Pachman



Moderator: Eleni Glykis, Red Bank Public Library  
Photo Credit: Fred Pachman



Melody Scagnelli-Townley  
Bayonne Public Library  
Photo Credit: Fred Pachman



Danny Klein  
Jersey City Free Public Library  
Photo Credit: Fred Pachman



James Cox  
Hoboken Public Library  
Photo Credit: Fred Pachman



Jacqueline Silver-Morillo  
Atlantic City Free Public Library  
Photo Credit: Fred Pachman

**Plainfield Public Library Presentation Highlights from Sarah Hull:** In addition to the usual research services like house history and genealogy, we expand the library’s reach beyond current residents while still building a sense of community in three main ways: programming and exhibits, helping with local celebrations and anniversaries, and large-scale annual events. Sarah discussed their three main program series that all benefit from using Zoom and YouTube. Virtual programs, local collaborations, and social media extended reach to new audiences, and public programs like the photo contest and history fair build community while exhibits and guest displays do both. Sarah also talked about how numerous local collaborations, such as the local historical society, houses of worship, and the city hall strengthened community bonds.

**Atlantic City Free Public Library Presentation Highlights from Jacqueline Silver-Morillo:** For her presentation, Jacqueline described specifically what she uses at the Atlantic City Free Public Library, AC Heritage Collections Archive for genealogical research. The three research tools she focused on were the ACHS yearbooks, the Atlantic City Directory, and the Atlantic City Press. She picked an example from each tool, and then broke down the example to illustrate what information you could glean about a researcher’s family. She was lucky enough to find information about her own family, making the presentation personal to her and hopefully beneficial to others.

# HOW TO CREATE AND PROCESS ORAL HISTORIES

Submitted by Juber Ayala, Newark Public Library



In Photo: (Left to right: Yesenia Lopez, Juber Ayala)  
Photo Credit: Fred Pachman

After a few requests on how to create and process oral history collections from librarians and university professors, the New Jersey Hispanic Research & Information Center's (NJHRIC) Yesenia López and Juber Ayala decided to share their knowledge on the subject during this year's NJLA Conference.

Archivist Juber Ayala commenced the program with a brief overview of the NJHRIC's oral history collection. In the 1980s, Dr. Olga J. Wagenheim (co-founder of the NJHRIC) started a personal project to interview the Puerto Rican community of Dover, NJ. During this time, oral histories were considered a hobby, so she did not pursue an academic publication with her community findings. Later, she received formal training to conduct oral histories. She then taught undergraduate students to interview local leaders to capture their fascinating stories. These interviews would later be donated to the NJHRIC.

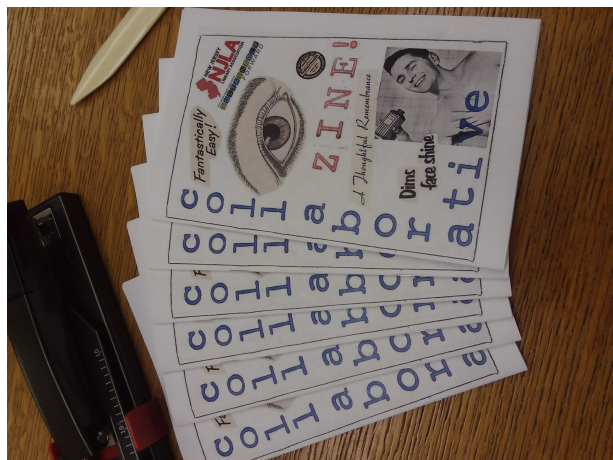
Yesenia López, Director of the NJHRIC, gave a crash course on creating an oral history collection. She reminisced about being a student in Dr. Wagenheim's History of Puerto Rico class. She found history to be interesting because she was learning about where her family and friends came from. López posed and answered a series of oral history related questions: What is oral history? Who will be interviewed? What is their story? López also shared interviewing tips such as asking open-ended questions to encourage the speaker to share their stories and asking closed questions to probe for specific details.

Juber Ayala wrapped up the presentation by sharing some tips for processing oral histories, such as creating an in-house style guide, subject indexes, and an inventory of all of the oral histories in your collection. Oral histories can be disseminated in various ways, such as curating exhibits, recording podcasts and general community outreach. Lastly, as oral histories became more acceptable in academia, Dr. Wagenheim published a chapter titled, "From Aguada to Dover: Puerto Ricans rebuild their world in Morris County, New Jersey, 1948 to 2000" in the book *Puerto Rican Diaspora: Historical Perspectives*.

Many attendees followed up with questions and encouragement after the program. We hope to hear back from attendees who were interested in learning more about creating and processing oral histories. We have already been invited to speak to a class at Rutgers-Newark about our oral history collection!

## ZINE ZONE CREATIVE SPACE

Submitted By Laura Poll, Trenton Free Public Library



NJLA Collaborative Zine  
Photo Credit: Laura Poll



Zine Zone  
Photo Credit: Jungwon DeVone

New at this year's NJLA conference was the "Zine Zone," co-sponsored by History & Preservation, Young Adult Services, and Urban Libraries, and set-up all day on Thursday and Friday in the Exhibit Hall. Librarians made their way down to check out what we were doing, and to see some examples of ways to incorporate zines into libraries. There were plenty of free zines, buttons, pencils, stickers, and cards to grab, and an area to sit and create a page for the conference's collaborative zine. Twenty-one people participated, and a PDF of the finished zine can be printed out (double-sided, short edge) if you'd like your own copy!

<https://www.trentonlib.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/NJLA-Collab-Zine-combined.pdf>

Zines (pronounced "zeeeens") are self-publications that can be done by anyone in order to share knowledge, experiences, and opinions on a variety of topics, or to just create for yourself. Zines allow all voices to be heard, and strengthen the bond between libraries and the communities they serve. Many librarians asked questions about what in the world zines are, why libraries should want to make them available to their patrons, ways to add zine-making as programming for both youths and seniors, creating zines for/about your library, and obstacles with administration that might be faced. Two baskets of zines were raffled off to help start a zine library - the lucky winners were Jacqueline Silver-Morillo of Atlantic City Free Public Library and Dana Jackson of Stockton University.

This is the second consecutive year that zines have been a conference topic and we hope to keep it going! Contact [njla.zine.zone@gmail.com](mailto:njla.zine.zone@gmail.com) if you'd like to join the committee for 2024. Also follow along on Instagram @njla.zine.zone to see more photos from the conference. And if you were inspired at the Zine Zone, be sure to tag us #njlazinezone !

# NEW JERSEY SLAVERY RECORDS DATABASE FROM THE SCARLET AND BLACK RESEARCH CENTER

Submitted By John Beekman, Section President



As I noted in my overview of the conference, Friday morning opened with the smell of smoke wafting through the conference center, as wildfires in the Pine Barrens raged at record levels. What at the time seemed to be surreal and unprecedented turned out to be a harbinger of conditions that would affect much of NJ days later from a more remote source, as smoke from Canadian Wildfires blanketed the region for days. Rutgers University Archivist Erika Gorder was unable to reach the conference center in time to participate in the program. While we missed hearing from her, this allowed the director of the Scarlet and Black Research Center, Jesse Bayker, to present a deeper dive into the developing New Jersey Slavery Records project, which provides rich metadata and contextualization of disparate documentary records of enslavement in New Jersey.

The Scarlet and Black Research Center, an arm of the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice at Rutgers University, developed out of the 2015-2021 project to examine the vestiges of racism and anti-Blackness that literally shaped the cities and towns across the state of New Jersey from the colonial era to the present, with a particular emphasis on the collections and history of Rutgers University. The project produced an invaluable three-volume set documenting the history of African Americans in relation to the University.

Acting upon the need to uncover and make accessible the records of enslaved and disenfranchised people, and demonstrating research and interpretive methods that can make those records meaningful, the Scarlet and Black Research Center is now undertaking a project to bring together disparate records from

collections across the state. Unlike the digitized records aggregation project the Digital Public Library of America – the focus of another conference session – the New Jersey Slave Records database both collects records and contextualizes them with additional scholarly research. Relations are traced and connections made across records that begin to allow for a richer picture of the enslaved people of New Jersey and those that enforced and profited from their bondage. The database is being developed in collaboration with ‘On These Grounds: Slavery and the University’, a cross-institutional digital initiative funded by the Mellon Foundation, and is a partner in the Northeast Slavery Records Collaborative.

This project is less than a year old, and will continue to grow and deepen only through the support of the institutions that collect local history and the professionals who staff them. I would encourage anyone who is reading this to explore <https://records.njslavery.org/> and to promote its use to all researchers interested in the history of New Jersey.



# THE NJ/DE HUB OF THE DPLA - EXPANDING ACCESS TO DIGITAL COLLECTIONS IN NEW JERSEY AND DELAWARE

Submitted By Katrina Zwaaf, Somerset County Library System



In Photo: (Left to Right):  
Michael L. Stewart, Lynn Hoffman, Katrina Zwaaf

Photo Credit: Kathlyn Kelly

On Friday, June 2, the second day of the NJLA conference, attendees had the opportunity to learn about the New Jersey/Delaware Hub of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). The hub is a collaboration launched by the New Jersey State Library and the Delaware Division of Libraries. It serves libraries and cultural heritage institutions throughout New Jersey and Delaware with over 20 organizations already contributing to DPLA through the NJ/DE Digital Collective.

In 2021, the NJ/DE Digital Collective began harvesting NJ collections metadata for the Digital Public Library of America. In the session, Lynn Hoffman (hub Project Manager) and Michael Stewart (hub Metadata Specialist) gave an overview of the process, explained the impact of involvement in DPLA on the discovery of materials, showed off some of the materials already harvested, and explained how to become involved. "Michael and I have made our pitch for the NJ/DE Digital Collective dozens of times, mostly to prospective and new contributors in virtual sessions. It was a pleasure to share what we've been working on with the New Jersey library community face-to-face, and to make new connections with organizations at so many different points in their digital collection journeys" says Hoffman.

In addition to Hoffman's and Stewart's presentation, John Beekman, Manager of the New Jersey Room at the Jersey City Free Public Library, and Katrina Zwaaf, Cataloging & Metadata Librarian at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey spoke about their libraries' experience contributing to DPLA.

For more information about the NJ/DE Digital Collective visit <https://njde.dp.la>.

# START UP ADMINISTRATION FOR SMALLER LIBRARY HISTORY/ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS

Submitted By E. Kim Adams, New Brunswick Free Public Library



In Photo: (Left to Right): John Beekman, E. Kim Adams, Chad Leinaweaver, Laura Poll

Photo Credit: Kathlyn Kelly

The Small Libraries Section teamed up with the History and Preservation Section to provide two companion sessions designed for librarians who are new to managing a local history collection. The first session was on Administration. The second session was on Preservation.

In session 1 which focused on administrative aspects, Laura Poll who is archivist at the Trentoniana History Department in the Trenton Public Library and John Ward Beekman, who is manager of the New Jersey Room at the Jersey City library, led with "In the Beginning I and II". Some of the big take-aways included, 'learn about the collection before you start', 'plan what you are going to do', "don't do what I did ", and descriptions of their approaches consistent with good archival practice. There were many more.

They were followed by Chad Leinaweaver, who is director at The Morristown & Morris Township Library. His talk was centered on Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (CAPES). The title of his presentation was "Capes aren't Just for Superheroes!", but it could have just as easily been 'Archives Little Shop of Horrors'. His pithy rendering of 'why use CAPES' included a PowerPoint of archival horrors. The favorite was the slide of boxes and papers messily crammed between a bathtub and potty. Wrong on so many levels.

For the second session on Preservation, we had Tim Corlis, recently retired Head of Preservation at Rutgers University, who gave us To Do Lists that included guidelines for preserving collections, use rules for archival documents, how to handle scans and copies safely, and sources for supplies.

Gary Saretzky, who is a recently retired Monmouth County Archivist and is a photography educator, drilled down the basics on caring for photographs. He included historical information for photography that placed the different contexts of film and materials which can dictate the needed care.

All of the presenters are very experienced archivists. Any one of them would be more than happy to answer questions. In addition, after reviewing questionnaires returned from the sessions, new professional opportunities are being developed to help those in need. Meanwhile, should you want a free CAPES evaluation, visit <https://www.marac.info/new-jersey-caucus-capes> or [capescoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:capescoordinator@gmail.com).

Thank you to one and all who participated.

## START UP PRESERVATION FOR SMALLER LIBRARY HISTORY/ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS



Gary Saretzky at the NJLA Annual Conference 2023  
Photo Credit : Kathlyn Kelly

### Preserving Photographs

Submitted by Gary D. Saretzky

Since the introduction of photographic portrait studios in 1840, photographs have been treasured but, while most are long-lasting when stored optimally in libraries, they are all too often prone to fading, discoloration, and other evidence of damage. In this twenty minute slide lecture, Gary Saretzky provided guidance on how the life of photographs can be extended so that they can be passed down to future generations. After showing examples of photographs that had suffered damage from handling, disasters, inappropriate storage materials, and other factors, he summarized the major risk factors to collections: physical forces, vandalism, fire, water, pests, contaminants, light, incorrect temperature, incorrect humidity, and dissociation through poor, or lack of, labeling. Saretzky then provided tips on processing photo collections; guidelines for storage of photographic prints and negatives, with special attention to acetate and nitrate negatives; and discussed the three different archival plastics appropriate for sleeving photographs: polyethylene, polypropylene, and polyester. He then concluded with a brief discussion of digitization of photographs and recommended *Photo Organizing Practices: Daguerreotypes to Digital* by Maureen A. Taylor for those who needed a basic manual on this topic. Saretzky's talk was a condensed version of a 1.5 hour presentation that he has given more than thirty times since 2011 at libraries around New New Jersey, either in person or via live stream.



Tim Corlis, E. Kim Adams and Gary Saretzky at the NJLA Annual Conference 2023  
Photo Credit Kathlyn Kelly

## Organizing and Preserving a History Collection

Submitted by Tim Corlis

We began with a discussion about the "inherent vice" (acids) that causes discoloration and embrittlement in paper made from ground wood pulp fibers. This problem was recognized and solved during the 1980s when calcium carbonate was added in the production of pulp for modern alkaline paper.

Several strategies for preserving collections were discussed:

1. Providing favorable temperature and humidity storage conditions can slow chemical degradation.
2. Replace rustprone metal fasteners with "Plasticlips" or folded "11 x 17" buffered paper folders.
3. Buffered foldering and micro-foldering can improve longevity by diminishing acid buildup. Note: Three common exceptions to avoid the buffering strategy: Wool, Silk, Cyanotype print (aka: blueprint).
4. Problematic media can be reformatted (photocopied) onto buffered modern paper (e.g.: thermofax mimeograph & newsprint).
5. Fixing ultraviolet filters to lighting and windows can reduce the most destructive light frequencies.
6. Buffered & opaque archival boxes can reduce or eliminate light exposure that facilitates acid buildup.
7. Polyester polyethylene and polypropylene sleeves can be used as barriers to prevent harmful chemical migration between documents as well as other surface damage.
8. Environmental monitoring can help avoid mold growth that is likely to occur when conditions meet 70°F & 70% RH.

### Reference Links

<p>Use of Buffered vs. Unbuffered Storage Materials:  <a href="https://www.preservationequipment.com/Blog/Blog-Posts/Buffered-or-unbuffered-storage">https://www.preservationequipment.com/Blog/Blog-Posts/Buffered-or-unbuffered-storage</a></p>	<p>MARAC, Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (CAPES):  <a href="https://nj.gov/state/historical/assets/pdf/grants/2015-1217-capes-application-form.pdf">https://nj.gov/state/historical/assets/pdf/grants/2015-1217-capes-application-form.pdf</a></p>
<p>A note regarding "plastics":  <a href="https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/conservation/18-02.pdf">https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/conservation/18-02.pdf</a></p>	<p>Collection Care Strategies (A recorded FAIC webinar): Identifying Museum Insect Damage &amp; Addressing with it w/ IPM:  <a href="https://connectingtocollections.org/webinar-pest-management/">https://connectingtocollections.org/webinar-pest-management/</a></p>

## GENERAL MEETING & ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION



### Members of the 2022 Executive Board

In Photo: (left to right): Gary Saretzky, John Beekman, Ken Kaufman, Beth Zak-Cohen, Jacquelyn Oshman, Tom Ankner, Jessica Myers, Juber Ayala  
Photo Credit: Fred Pachman



### Members of the 2023-2024 Executive Board

In Photo: (left to right): Gary Saretzky, Sarah Hull, John Beekman, Beth Zak-Cohen, Jacquelyn Oshman, Juber Ayala, Jessica Myers  
Photo Credit: Fred Pachman



**Previous Recipients of the Swartzburg Award**

In Photo: (left to right) Gary Saretzky, Sarah Hull, John Beekman, Tom Ankner,  
Tim Corlis, Fred Pachman  
Photo Credit: Fred Pachman



**NJLA Conference  
History & Preservation Section Group Photo**

Photo Credit: Fred Pachman

# A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: MUHLENBERG HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION HISTORICAL COLLECTION (1904-2000)

Submitted by Sarah Hull, Plainfield Public Library

Plainfield Public Library recently displayed historical materials from our Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association collection. The Association was organized in 1905 with a membership of seven. The collection is composed of a variety of records, such as yearbooks and course catalogs; administrative material



including annual reports, financial records, meeting minutes, by-laws, and correspondence; and subject files including awards, centennial celebrations, ephemera, and reunions. There are three nursing uniforms, capes, and a series of scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, photographs, and photocopied images. Additional personal donations have been added into the collection over the years. On loan for this exhibit were a few items from the Historical Society of Plainfield / Drake House Museum. The display was hung in the main lobby wall display case (photo) and four additional flat cases around the building. Two highlights of the exhibit were a student nurse uniform (c. 1949) and cape (c. 1945).

Some background: In 1877, the residents of Plainfield established a hospital – Muhlenberg Hospital - on land donated by (then) Mayor Job Male (Male was also the first Mayor of Plainfield and the namesake of the first public library building, which he also donated, but I digress). Less than twenty years later in 1894, the Nurses Training School was established. The first course of training was two years, and the first class (of only two students) graduated in 1896. In 1897, the training course was extended to three years. By 1959, 893 nurses had graduated and, by 1984, more than 1200. In 1971, the school established an affiliation with Union College (later, Union County College). The current school has articulation agreements with Kean University, Wagner College, and Rutgers University.

According to the school's early policies, each nursing student admitted was to be female, single, and between 25 to 35 years old. There was also a secret admission requirement that history would reveal - the unwritten policy of having to be white. In fact, the school would not see any diversity in its student body until the 1970s and 1980s. Some of the first Black students that we identified (all Plainfield residents) transferred out and completed their degree at other nursing schools due to the severe racism at the school.

Without a doubt, the overwhelming majority of the visual materials (i.e. the ones that are nice to display) in the collection represent only the white alums. It was important for us to 1) address the history and not whitewash it and 2) provide representation of the diversity that did exist whenever we could. We did this through the more contemporary items such as course catalogs and graduation photographs, as well as through images from related collections at other institutions (like the National Library of Medicine).

We promoted the exhibit through the library's e-newsletter and the Local History Department's monthly email blast. We also posted display snapshots across the Library's social media platforms, which helped to bring interested alums from around the state into the library. To help us better evaluate the project, in each display case we placed a QR code linking to our online audience feedback form. Finally, we created a cute bookmark as a fun way to promote and commemorate the display. All in all, the exhibition was a great success!





# ROGER MCDONOUGH LIBRARIANSHIP AWARD FOR 2023 TO INGRID BETANCOURT

Submitted by Gary Saretzky



Ingrid Betancourt, Newark Public Library

Winner of the 2023 Roger McDonough  
Librarianship Award

Ingrid Betancourt of the Newark Public Library is the winner of the 2023 Roger McDonough Librarianship Award. Named after the late esteemed New Jersey State Librarian, the McDonough Award is the most prestigious award in the state given to a New Jersey librarian or archivist for excellence in service to the New Jersey history research community and the general public. It is cosponsored by the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, the New Jersey Library Association History & Preservation Section, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference-New Jersey Caucus, and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Ingrid Betancourt has provided 40+ years of outstanding service to the library and community as a Librarian at the Newark Public Library, serving in numerous leadership positions, including Assistant Director of Special Collections, Interim Library Director, and currently, Director of Operations. She has served as President and Vice-President of REFORMA - the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking and is a co-founder of the REFORMA Northeast Chapter.

In 1989, Ingrid helped found the New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center which includes the Puerto Rican Community Archives, the Hispanic Reference Collection, and La Sala Hispanoamericana. La Sala, the main

reference service point for the Newark Public Library's Spanish-speaking patrons, houses one of the largest Spanish-language book collections in public libraries in the state of New Jersey with over 30,000 volumes. And for more than thirty years, Ingrid was instrumental in expanding the Library's annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration, a comprehensive series of free public programming and exhibits focusing on New Jersey Latino community and topics that unite all Latinos.

From 1991 to 2005, Ingrid also served as Director of MultiMAC, the Multilingual Materials Acquisition Center, a New Jersey information clearinghouse and resource center on library services and materials in selected world languages.

Ingrid Betancourt has consistently demonstrated a high level of public service by spearheading La Sala, and later, the NJHRIC. These library initiatives exponentially increased the free library resources available to the state's Spanish-speaking community and historians. She is truly deserving to be recognized by the Roger McDonough Librarianship Award, which will be presented at Archives and History Day on October 28 at Brookdale Community College.

## EVENTS

### NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Submitted by Beth Zak-Cohen, Newark Public Library

#### September 20

William R. Fernekes of the Rutgers graduate school of education will discuss his upcoming book *Clifford P. Case and the Challenge of Liberal Republicanism* (Lanham MD: Lexington Books, 2023). Case was the last Republican elected to the U.S. Senate from New Jersey. He served as a Senator from 1955 to 1979. As a liberal, he was a thorn in the side of Republican conservatives in the state, who never fully supported him.

#### October 18

Wheeler Antabanez gives a video tour tied to his book, *Walking the Old Boonton Line*. The book came out on October 30, 2022, and Wheeler will have books to sell the night of the event. The presentation consists of a 35-minute movie that he narrates live. All the footage in the film is from his last walk along the abandoned tracks right before they were torn up to make way for the Essex/Hudson Greenway project, so this is the definitive last look. He takes the audience from the start point in Montclair all the way through the Bergen Arches to the Hudson River Waterfront in Jersey City, where we finish off with a helicopter ride over Manhattan to look back on the terrain we just traversed.

### NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

By E. Kim Adams, New Brunswick Free Public Library



Pittman Methodist Church

Photo Credit: Howell Glass Plate Collection

## **The Howell Sisters: Photographers of New Brunswick, Circa 1900**

23 September 2023 at 2pm

### **Gary D. Saretzky Presents:**

The prosperous Howell family, which lived on George Street in New Brunswick around 1900, included three adult sisters who were avid amateur photographers using glass plate negatives. They especially photographed in and around the house; family members and other people; urban and rural landscapes; buildings, especially houses and churches; beach scenes and river views; and horse drawn vehicles like carriages and sleighs. This talk includes an overview of how photographs were made in the 19th and early 20th century, followed by samples of work by the Howells from the collection of the New Brunswick Public Library. Attendees will learn about the daily life of Victorian women through the photographs they made and see New Brunswick as it appeared at the dawn of the twentieth century.

### **About the Speaker:**

Gary D. Saretzky, archivist, educator, and photographer, worked as an archivist for more than fifty years at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Educational Testing Service, and the Monmouth County Archives, where he was County Archivist, 1994-2019. Saretzky taught the history of photography at Mercer County Community College, 1977-2012, and lectures regularly on New Jersey photographers and other photo-related topics. He has published more than 100 articles and reviews on the history of photography, photographic conservation, and other topics, including "Nineteenth-Century New Jersey Photographers," in the journal, *New Jersey History*, Fall/Winter 2004. Learn more at his website, <http://saretzky.com>

### **The Exhibit**

In conjunction with Gary's presentation, a small exhibit will showcase the 233 glass plate negatives that Gary will focus on. Of particular interest, in the first part of the exhibit, will be the work of the donor, John Cruz, who identified the house, the family and made the collection come alive. An additional aspect of the exhibition will be the research of intern Allison Gonzalez who is particularly interested in women's issues. She hopes to illuminate now and then aspects of life in New Brunswick.

Please join us in the Carl T. Valenti Community Room at the Library. Free and open to the public. Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners through a grant award from the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund.

## OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Submitted by Colleen Goode, Ocean County Library System and  
Meagan Harrison, Ocean County Library System

### ***The Turning Point Battles of WWII***

Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 6:30 – 7:30pm, Brick Branch

Renowned local WWII historian Paul Zigo will discuss five key turning point battles of WWII, each of which enabled the Allies to mount offensive operations to achieve strategic objectives and ultimately attain victory.

<https://theoceancountylibrary.org/events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D167251411%26view%3Devent%26eventid%3D167251411>

### ***Swashbucklers and Sea Dogs***

Thursday, September 28, 2023, 6:30 – 8pm, Toms River Branch

It is the 18th Century and notorious Lady Pirate - Captain Anne Bonny has sailed into a port near you! Captain Bonny's ship is primed for adventure, but she has a WHALE of a problem – half of her crew has disappeared! In between her busy schedule of swordplay, fisticuffs and some salty pirate talk, she must find fresh recruits to quickly learn the ABC's of PI-RA-CY. Learn pirate law, nautical terms, the essential skill of tying knots, geography, and more in this all-ages show.

<https://theoceancountylibrary.org/events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D167880182%26view%3Devent%26eventid%3D167880182>

### ***Failure at Gettysburg: 15 Decisions that Doomed the Confederacy***

Monday, October 9, 7 – 8:30pm, Manchester Branch

The largest invasion of the North in 1863 was led by Robert E. Lee against the new Commander of the Army of the Potomac. His name was George Gordon Meade who had taken command only 6 days earlier, yet the

vaunted Army of Northern Virginia was soundly beaten. Why? How? Come hear 15 strategic and tactical mistakes made by the Confederates that may have cost them the war. Retired social studies teacher and history buff Glenn LeBoeuf will give the presentation. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Manchester Branch Library.

<https://theoceancountylibrary.org/events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D164933603%26view%3Devent%26eventid%3D164933603>

### ***Friends Adventure: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow***

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 10 – 11am, Stafford Branch

Professional actor Neill Hartley brings you into The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Neill is Ichabod Crane in an interactive adaptation of the classic horror tale by Washington Irving. See Ichabod interacting with students, leading the congregation in song, and dancing with his love. Then follow him on his fateful journey home as he meets the Headless Horseman! Neill is returning to the Stafford Branch through The American Historical Theater, after his wonderful performance as Sherlock Holmes. Sponsored by the Friends of the Stafford Library. Please register.

<https://theoceancountylibrary.org/events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D167399603%26view%3Devent%26eventid%3D167399603>

### ***The Hindenburg Experience Talk***

Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 2 – 3:30pm, Manchester Branch

Come and experience the last flight of the Hindenburg from Frankfurt, Germany to

Lakehurst, NJ in 1937! At 803.8 feet in length and 135.1 feet in diameter, the German passenger airship Hindenburg (LZ-129) was the largest aircraft ever to fly. The commercial flights of the Hindenburg, along with Graf Zeppelin, pioneered the first transatlantic air service. She carried hundreds of passengers and traveled thousands of miles before burning in a tragic fire on May 6, 1937 at NAS Lakehurst (Manchester Township). Please join us through on a trip through the Hindenburg's history. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Manchester Branch Library.

<https://theoceancountylibrary.org/events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D166190091%26view%3Devent%26eventid%3D166190091>

#### ***The Vietnam War, 1964 – 1973***

Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 6:30 – 8pm, Toms River Branch

The Vietnam War was a long, costly and divisive conflict that pitted the communist government of North Vietnam against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. The conflict was intensified by the ongoing Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. More than 3 million people (including over 58,000

Americans) were killed in the Vietnam War, and more than half of the dead were Vietnamese civilians. Come learn where the war was fought, how it was fought and most importantly, why it was fought.

<https://theoceancountylibrary.org/events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D165845668%26view%3Devent%26eventid%3D165845668>

#### ***Korean War Tribute with the Pettets***

Thursday, November 30, 2023, 2 – 3pm, Manchester Branch

The Korean War was one of the most pivotal and strategic conflicts in the history of our nation. Join mother - daughter duo, Denise and Ashley Pettet, as they pay tribute to our Korean War Veterans through the songs of the 1950s. The Pettets have distinguished careers on Broadway, movies, radio and television. They have performed at such prestigious venues as The White House and have gained widespread acclaim for their musical entertainment.

<https://theoceancountylibrary.org/events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D167670081%26view%3Devent%26eventid%3D167670081>

## Forensic Files in the Aisles

### Ocean County Library Toms River Branch

Saturday, September 9, 2023

The Ocean County Library is excited to announce an upcoming all day special event at the Toms River Branch titled “Forensic Files in the Aisles” on Saturday, September 9, 2023. This event will focus on the popular True Crime genre of books, film and media and celebrate the people who are solving these crimes and keeping the streets safe for our communities. Two programs during this event will highlight New Jersey crimes from the 1800’s to present day. Visit [www.theoceancountylibrary.org](http://www.theoceancountylibrary.org) for a schedule closer to the event date.

## New Jersey’s Notorious Crimes & Criminals Walking Tour

This self-guided tour will highlight some infamous crimes and criminals of New Jersey’s past and showcase local history resources inside the Hugh B. Wheeler Room, the Ocean County Library’s collection of local genealogical and historical treasures as well as eBooks, newspapers and other resources available on our website.



Joe Pompeo

Photo Credit: New Moon Photography

### The Hall-Mills Murders with Joe Pompeo

Vanity Fair correspondent Joe Pompeo will discuss his critically acclaimed book, BLOOD & INK: The Scandalous Jazz Age Double Murder That Hooked America on True Crime, about New Jersey’s infamous Hall-Mills saga. Join us for a rollicking discussion about a high-society Roaring Twenties murder mystery, the birth of tabloid news, and America’s enduring obsession with true crime.

# PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Submitted by Sarah Hull, Plainfield Public Library

## Current Exhibition:

### **"America's Black Cowboys & Cowgirls" in the Anne Louise Davis room (lower level)**

This black & white photograph series by Plainfield photographer, Brian Branch-Price, presents a glimpse of Brian's stunning and sublime Black Cowboy and Cowgirl portraiture collection. Featured in this exhibition are the Crazy Faith Riders of New Jersey, The Federation of Black Cowboys (NY), and Black rodeos across the United States. The photographs all capture moments of Branch-Price's travels. The Crazy Faith Riders is the first and only African-American, faith based riding club in New Jersey. Their goal is to share our common interest in horses among a community of people. The Federation of Black Cowboys was created in 1994 by a group of diverse people looking to share and promote knowledge of the "Black West". They also aim to inspire the kids with the stories of African American historical heroes such as: Bill Pickett, Nat Love, Bass Reeves, and Stagecoach Mary. The exhibit will run through September 23, 2023.

### **Queen City Film Festival Screentalk UMOJA: "The Other Boys of Summer"**

**Saturday, August 12, 2023 @ 11:30AM-2:30PM**

Anne Louise Davis Room at Plainfield Public Library

*Interview with Emmy Nominated Director, Lauren Meyer to follow film screening*

"The Other Boys of Summer" explores civil rights in America through the lives of the Negro League baseball players. The film is narrated by Cicely Tyson and features never-before-seen interviews with the trailblazers who played alongside Jackie Robinson and changed baseball and America forever. Through the lens of America's pastime "The Other Boys of Summer" draws from our past to shine the spotlight on issues that dominate today's headlines. Directed by Lauren Meyer.

### **Using Archival Finding Aids for History & Genealogy Research, with Sally Weiner, library archivist**

**Saturday, August 19, 2023 @ 10:30AM via Zoom**

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/PPLHist2308>

Co-hosted Historical Society of Plainfield / Drake House Museum

Would you like to explore a collection in the archive, but not sure if the material is relevant to your history or family research? A finding aid is the key. Think of it like a map to help you navigate a collection. Finding aids can be anything from basic inventories to more descriptive, in-depth guides. Learn how you can use these valuable tools to discover a world of information in the Local History, Genealogy, and Special Collections archive.

### **Friends of Friends: Quakers and African American Communities, with Ari Wilkins, professional genealogist**

**Saturday, August 26, 2023 @ 10:30AM via Zoom**

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/PPLGen230826>

Co-hosted Historical Society of Plainfield / Drake House Museum

Well-known for their anti-slavery views, Quakers began to migrate to the slave-free territories in the 19th century. As they migrated out of the South, Quakers emancipated and traveled with their newly freed slaves. Once settled, the sect continued their abolitionist cause by supporting the Underground Railroad – transporting runaway slaves to free states. In turn, free Blacks established their own settlements, while still maintaining ties with the Quaker community.

### **Introduction to Cuban Genealogy, with Elizabeth Murray Vargas, professional genealogist**

**Saturday, September 23, 2023 @ 10:30AM via Zoom**

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/PPLGen2309>

Co-hosted Historical Society of Plainfield / Drake House Museum

Learn how to research your Cuban family history with professional genealogist, Elizabeth Murray Vargas. Elizabeth will discuss the resources and tools available to get you started in your search for official records, documents, and other information sources.

**Burial Rites and Wrongs: Preventing the Creation of the Undead, with L'Aura Hladik Hoffman, NJ Ghost Hunters Society**

**Saturday, October 14, 2023 @ 10:30AM via Zoom**

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/PPLHist2310>

Cohosted with the Historical Society of Plainfield / Drake House Museum

From ancient practices to modern day funerals, superstitions and customs abound when it comes to inhumation or interment. Whether one is buried six feet under or above ground in a crypt or mausoleum, learn the best practices for burying a corpse and protecting it from turning into a vampire or other revenant. Covered in this macabre presentation are the differences of the undead such as zombies, vampires, ghouls and windigos. Catacombs, Hell Hounds and Doppelsaugers, oh my! If you're into the creepy afterlife, you'll really dig this!

**Archeology and the Delaware Nations: A 12,000 Year Odyssey, with Richard Veit, PhD.**

**Saturday, November 4, 2023 @ 10:30AM via Zoom**

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/PPLHist231104>

Cohosted with the Historical Society of Plainfield / Drake House Museum

This heavily illustrated presentation examines New Jersey's rich Native American heritage. It begins with a discussion of the sources archaeologists use to inform their work, including artifacts, archaeological sites, colonial documents, and oral histories. Then, using a series of case studies the cultural history of the region is examined from the earliest Paleoindian pathfinders over 10,000 years ago through to the Lenape of the historic period. We see the changing lifestyles of New Jersey's native inhabitants as the environment they lived in slowly evolved. The experience of the Lenape in the historic period is also examined through a series of case studies. The presence and continuing importance of Native Americans to the region today is also discussed.



# PRINCETON PRESERVATION GROUP

Submitted by Gary Saretzky

## Presents:

### “From the Sky Scrapper to the Wild Flower: Charles Hine’s Challenge to Preservation”

by Professor Nicholas Yablon, University of Iowa, September 26, 2023, 7pm, via Zoom



Professor Nicholas Yablon, University of Iowa

Nick Yablon received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago and is Professor of History and American Studies at the University of Iowa. He is the author of *Untimely Ruins: An Archaeology of American Urban Modernity, 1819-1919* (University of Chicago Press, 2009) and *Remembrance of Things Present: The Invention of the Time Capsule* (University of Chicago Press, 2019). He is currently completing “From the Sky Scrapper to the Wild Flower”: Charles Hine’s Survey of New York’s Broadway” (under contract to Columbia University Press).

## Abstract

Prof. Yablon will discuss his book-in-progress, which examines a unique survey of New York, undertaken in 1905 by amateur photographer-historian, Charles Hine. Following Broadway up the entire island of Manhattan in search of features that were disappearing, Hine produced about 300 photographs and pasted them into a three-volume album, alongside newspaper clippings and his own historical essay. He titled it, “From the Sky Scrapper to the Wild Flower.”

This talk will emphasize Hine’s expansive, heterodox approach to preservation. While documenting several “historic” buildings on Broadway, he focused more on vernacular and relatively recent structures that were threatened by urban development, such as theaters, hotels, stores, or even squatters’ shacks; on marginalized social groups, such as sex workers, street vendors, and market gardeners; on apparently disappearing animals, such as working horses; and on the wild flora and geology of the island. Yablon’s study of Hine’s photographs thus contributes to ongoing efforts to expand the scope of historic preservation, and to connect it to urban ecology.

## About PPG:

The Princeton Preservation Group has been meeting for forty years on a broad range of topics related to preservation. Meetings are open to the public. For more information about PPG, see <http://princetonpreservation.org> A link for registration to the September 26 program will be posted on the website.

# SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Submitted by Ken Kaufman, Somerset County Library System

## **19th Century New Jersey Photographers:**

### **Princeton. Presented by Gary Saretzky.**

Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Virtual Program – Please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/7962426>

An illustrated talk profiling some of these local pioneers, including but not limited to Royal Hill Rose, founder of the three-generation firm that documented all aspects of life in Princeton, and Pach Brothers, which had the contract to photograph Princeton University classes from 1878 to 1909.

## **Throwback Thursdays**

Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Bound Brook branch

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/8636109>

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/8636110>

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/8636111>

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/8636112>

Explore a different archival collection with a staff member!

## **A Furious Sky: The 500 Year History of America's Hurricanes.**

Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Virtual Program – Please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/8225560>

Bestselling historian Eric Jay Dolin presents the 500 year story of American hurricanes from the nameless storms that threatened Columbus' New World voyages to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the escalation of hurricane season as a result of global warming.

## **Somerville and the Hall-Mills Murder Mystery.**

### **Presented By Joe Pompeo.**

Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Virtual Program – Please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/8604272>

Author Joe Pompeo will talk about this murder case from his critically acclaimed book, "Blood and Ink: The Scandalous Jazz Age Double Murder that Hooked America on True Crime", focusing on Somerville's connection to the investigation and eventual "trial of the century" at the Somerset County Courthouse.

## **Warren Township: A 200 Million Year Journey. Hot Rocks, Creeping Ice, & a Dead River.**

Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Warren Township branch

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/8592253>

A 200 million year journey through the geology and geography of Warren Township. Presented by Alan Siegel, President of the Warren Township Historical Society and local history author.

## **Exploring the Jersey Shore Thrill Killer. Presented by John E. O'Rourke.**

Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Virtual Program - Please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/8560840>

The true story of the murders that terrorized New Jersey beach towns for nearly a decade. Former New Jersey state trooper, John O'Rourke presents the chilling story.

**Where the Bodies Are Buried: A Surprising Journey Through the History of Our Cemeteries.**

Thursday, October 26th, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Virtual Program - Please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/8142737>

Though most people whistle past them, our burial grounds tell us more about ourselves than we realize. They are time capsules, preserving our art, culture, and history. Presented by Greg Melville, author of "Over my Dead Body".

**Haunted History of New Jersey, Presented by Greg Caggiano.**

Monday, October 30th, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Virtual Program - Please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/8156029>

Join historian Greg Caggiano for a look at the "other side" of history. Profiled in this presentation will be a Royal Governor's former residence, a Victorian mansion, a house with Revolutionary War notoriety, a cemetery, legendary road, and even a college campus. And what would a Halloween-themed talk be without a visit from the Jersey Devil? History and myth intertwine in this spooky program.

**Archaeology and the Delaware Indians. A 12,000 Year Odyssey.**

Monday, November 20th, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Virtual Program - Please visit this link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/8370702>

Dr. Richard Veit will examine the cultural history of the region from the Paleoindian pathfinders through to the Lenape historic period. He will feature the changing lifestyles of New Jersey's native inhabitants as the environment they lived in slowly evolved. The presence and continuing importance of Native Americans to the region today is also discussed.

## RESOLUTIONS



**Adopted by the NJLA Executive Board on June 1, 2023**

**May 2023**

Resolution Commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
History & Preservation Section

Whereas the History & Preservation Section of the New Jersey Library Association is celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment

And whereas the members of the History & Preservation Section have been active participants in our Association, particularly in support of programming at the annual conference and promoting preservation and conservation of library collections throughout the Garden State

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Executive Board of the New Jersey Library Association congratulates the membership of the History & Preservation section on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding

To view this document please visit this link:

<https://njla.memberclicks.net/njla-executive-board-statements-and-resolutions>

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**Adopted by the NJLA Executive Board On June 1, 2023  
May 2023**

**Resolution Celebrating the Twentieth Anniversary of the  
Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award**

Whereas Susan G. Swartzburg was honored by the creation of a Preservation Award in 2003 denoting her activities in preservation in the Garden State, nationally and internationally; along with her distinguished membership in the New Jersey Library Association

And, whereas the History & Preservation Section has been integral in identifying an Association member to receive this award that ‘recognizes a New Jersey Library Association member who, over a substantial number of years, has made exceptional contributions to the awareness, understanding, and/or preservation of archival and library materials in New Jersey.’”

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Executive Board of the New Jersey Library Association thanks the History & Preservation Section for its sponsorship of the award and recognizes the honorees of the Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award upon the twentieth anniversary of its establishment

To view this document please visit this link:

<https://njla.memberclicks.net/njla-executive-board-statements-and-resolutions>

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**Thank you!**

Thank you to everyone who sent in articles, photos and event announcements for this issue. To submit articles, news or calendar events to *The Chronicle*, email Kathlyn Kelly at [kkelly@sclibnj.org](mailto:kkelly@sclibnj.org).

To view past issues of *The Chronicle* visit: <http://njlamembers.org/hpchronicle>

## 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AUGUST

Current Exhibition through September 23: "America's Black Cowboys & Cowgirls" (Anne Louise Davis room, Plainfield Public Library, (lower level))

12: Queen City Film Festival Screentalk UMOJA: "The Other Boys of Summer", 11:30 am (Anne Louise Davis Room, Plainfield Public Library)

15: The Turning Point Battles of WWII, 6:30 pm (OCL- Brick Branch)

19: Using Archival Finding Aids for History & Genealogy Research, 10:30AM (Plainfield Public Library - Virtual via Zoom)

23: The Howell Sisters: Photographers of New Brunswick, Circa 1900, Presented by Gary Saretzky, 2 pm (New Brunswick Free Public Library, Carl T. Valenti Community Room)

24: 19th Century New Jersey Photographers: Princeton, Presented by Gary Saretzky, 7 pm (SCLS - Virtual)

26: Friends of Friends: Quakers and African American Communities, 10:30 am (Plainfield Public Library - Virtual via Zoom)

### SEPTEMBER

7: Throwback Thursdays, 5:30 pm (SCLS - Bound Brook branch, Reading Room)

9: Forensic Files in the Aisles, All Day Event (OCL - Toms River Branch)

14: Throwback Thursdays, 5:30 pm (SCLS - Bound Brook branch, Reading Room)

20: William R. Fernekes Book Discussion: *Clifford P. Case and the Challenge of Liberal Republicanism*, Newark Public Library (Details TBA)

21: Throwback Thursdays, 5:30 pm (SCLS - Bound Brook branch, Reading Room)

23: The Howell Sisters: Photographers of New Brunswick, Circa 1900, 2 pm (New Brunswick Free Public Library)

23: Introduction to Cuban Genealogy, with Elizabeth Murray Vargas, 10:30 am (Plainfield Public Library - Virtual via Zoom)

26: Princeton Preservation Group presents: "From the Sky Scraper to the Wild Flower: Charles Hine's Challenge to Preservation", 7 pm (PPG - Virtual via Zoom)

26: A Furious Sky: The 500 Year History of America's Hurricanes, 7 pm (SCLS - Virtual)

28: Swashbucklers and Sea Dogs, 6:30 pm (OCL - Toms River Branch)

28: Throwback Thursdays, 5:30pm (SCLS - Bound Brook branch, Reading Room)

### OCTOBER

9: Failure at Gettysburg: 15 Decisions that Doomed the Confederacy, 7 pm (OCL- Manchester Branch)

9: Somerville and the Hall-Mills Murder Mystery, presented by Joe Pompeo, 7 pm (SCLS - Virtual)

14: Burial Rites and Wrongs: Preventing the Creation of the Undead, with L'Aura Hladik Hoffman, 10:30 am (Plainfield Public Library - Virtual via Zoom)

18: Wheeler Antabanez Book Presentation for *Walking the Old Boonton Line*, Newark Public Library (Details TBA)

24: Warren Township: A 200 Million Year Journey, 6:30 pm (SCLS - Warren Township branch)

24: Exploring the Jersey Shore Thrill Killer, presented by John E. O'Rourke, 7 pm (SCLS - Virtual)

26: Where the Bodies Are Buried: A Surprising Journey Through the History of Our Cemeteries, 7 pm (SCLS - Virtual)

26: Friends Adventure: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, 10 am (OCL - Stafford Branch)

28: Monmouth Archives and History Day (Brookdale Community College, Collins Arena) (Details TBA)

30: Haunted History of New Jersey, 7 pm (SCLS - Virtual)

### NOVEMBER

4: Archeology and the Delaware Nations: A 12,000 Year Odyssey, with Richard Veit, PhD., 10:30 am (Plainfield Public Library - Virtual via Zoom)

20: Archaeology and the Delaware Indians: A 12,000 Year Odyssey, 7 pm (SCLS - Virtual)

21: The Hindenburg Experience Talk, 2 pm (OCL - Manchester Branch)

21: The Vietnam War, 1964 – 1973, 6:30 pm (OCL - Toms River Branch)

30: Korean War Tribute with the Pettets, 2 pm (OCL - Manchester Branch)